

XLV.—1904.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CEYLON.

NORTH-CENTRAL AND CENTRAL PROVINCES.

ANNUAL REPORT,

1900.

By H. C. P. BELL. C.C.S.,

Archæological Commissioner.

Ordered by His Excellency the Governor to be Printed.



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PREAMBLE.

THE sum of Rs. 52,641 was voted for Archæological purposes in 1900.* Work was prosecuted at Anurádhapura and Sígiriya steadily. The year also witnessed the commencement of regular operations at Polonnaruwa.

I.—ANURADHAPURA.

2.—CLEARING JUNGLE.

The usual sum of Rs. 3,000 was entrusted to the Archæological Commissioner for clearing purposes at Anurádhapura. In all 526 acres were dealt with at the advantageous rate of Rs. 3.66 per acre. A third (Rs. 1,069.25) of the amount was spent in rooting out stumps and felling superfluous trees near Abhayagiri and Ruwanveli Dágabas. This gradual thinning out of too thickly crowded forest is doubly beneficial to the Town, in parking the ruined areas and admitting more air.

3.—EXCAVATIONS.

At Anurádhapura excavations were continued at the same sites as in 1899 :—

- (i.) Ruwanveli Ruins.
- (ii.) “Elala Sohona.”
- (iii.) Puliyankulama Ruins.

(i.) Ruwanveli Ruins.

With the present year (1900) the excavation of all ruins in any way traceable by surface indications within the long stretch of park lying between Thúpárama and the Assistant Government Agent's premises south has been completed.

The greater part of the year was spent in completing excavations in the area lying mainly between Basawakkulam tank and Ruwanveli Dágaba. Particular attention was given to properly opening up to view the two finest viharés (wrongly termed “pavilions”) and their attendant *piriven* in this section, by the removal on all sides widely of the earth, 3 to 4 ft. in depth, the deposit of centuries. This wholesale action was demanded in order to ensure the skilful grouping of these picturesque shrines and their satellites being clearly comprehended. Further, displaced columns, capitals, &c., were adjusted—so far as practicable, without the aid of special gear not at present available. As the result the general effect of these compact, well-balanced ruin clusters has been markedly improved.

Amid sundry pillar stumps protruding from the ground in seeming irregularity two very striking ruined buildings had long been marked as ranking with the most handsome ancient structures of Anurádhapura. This special pair of viharés was first partially excavated in 1873 :—

The two pavilions lying between Thúpárama and the Government Agent's house have been cleared. The *débris* has been cleared away from the carved pillars, and the whole of the basement laid open. By this clearing the true proportions of these pillars are shown. The moonstones and carved steps have been opened to view; and the pillars are seen to be built on a raised basement of fine brick.†

These two sister shrines have proved to be the central viharés of a couple of monasteries—each possessing the usual complement of four close-lying *piriven*—situated midway between Ruwanveli Dágaba on the east and Basawakkulam tank to the west.‡

The ruins naturally divide themselves into two groups centring round the two conspicuous viharés.

Both Monasteries (H, I) were approached from the street which skirted the western *petmaga* of Ruwanveli Dágaba, and thence ran diagonally north-westwards through the Ruwanveli-Thúpárama ruins dealt with in 1898 and 1899.

Monastery H.

This monastery is separated from the buildings immediately to the north (Monastery G, unearthed last year) by the cross brick wall which forms their southern limit.

* Includes the salary of Mr. H. C. P. Bell, Archæological Commissioner, as a Member of the Ceylon Civil Service. Similarly in 1899 the full vote was Rs. 52,021.

† Government Agent, No. 208 of August 4, 1874.

‡ A new cross road is under construction, which will unite the east (“Sacred Road”) and west (Basawakkulam) sides of the Inner Circular loop road. This tie road runs north of Ruwanveli Dágaba and strikes Basawakkulam bund at Monastery G. The area covered by the three Monasteries G, H, I, is about 8 acres.

Mura-gé.

The entrance porch (*a*) from the street is greatly ruined. It probably differed but little from the similarly placed porches to Monasteries E and F* near Thúpárama, but had a somewhat higher basement. Hardly anything is left except the stairs at back. These are peculiar in their single stones with bevelled edges sloping down the sides of the steps, rather as splayed kerbs than balustrades.

From the *mura-gé* a kerb-lined path led to the inner enclosure containing the *viharé* and four *piriven*. Its precincts were not well defined all round. There is no gateway as at Monastery B;† and the presence of an extra building (*k*) on the south, fronting towards the *viharé* but behind the line of the south-east and south-west *piriven*, suggests that there was no regular limitary wall on that side.

Viharé.

The shrine (*b*) resembles in type and ground plan the "*Mayúra Páda Pirivena*" (so-called) adjoining the Anurádhapura-Kurunégala Road and the cognate *viharé* to be seen among the ruins south-east of Abhayagiri Dágaba.

But in the elaboration of its portico and stairs and the number of its columns it was not equalled by either *viharé*. Those shrines were twenty-four-pillared; this has thirty-two columns. Moreover the *sanda-kada-pahana* (moonstone slab) at the foot of the steps is of the zoophorous order found at the "Daladá Máligáwa" and the magnificent *viharé* of Monastery B, near Thúpárama—not the simpler form bearing only a single expanded lotus flower at its centre.

The building is oblong, measuring 66 ft. 6 in. along front and back by 43 ft. 4 in. down its north and south sides.

The basement was of brick, but its cyma plinth alone remains in places.

The portico, which as usual projects with perron stairs, was revetted in stone worked to the mouldings of the shrine basement. The upper members are missing, and the heavy monolithic slab which floored the portico is cracked across. Of four steps the topmost has gone; so too both balustrades and one of the pair of *sedilia*, or low parapet slabs (here almost vertical), of the portico.

The step risers exhibit upper and lower horizontal bands of lotus-leaf ornament framing the quaint trio of *ganás* squatting between conventionalized pilasters—the stereotyped adornment to stairs of all important shrines, whether at Anurádhapura or Polonnaruwa.

The terminals now in position are in all probability not the pair which originally flanked the steps. They are stilted and disappointing: the *Nága dwárapála* guardians are but seven-hooded, not nine; only a single dwarf, puny and solemn, stands at their feet, in lieu of the customary comic couple, plump and merry. On the outside elephants kneel upon carved pilasters.

The columns of the *viharé* were 10 ft. 6 in. in height. Their shafts are trimly squared to 13½ in.‡ and tenoned to receive branching capitals 2 ft. by 2 ft. by 2½ in., except the four corner pillars, which are monoliths with shaft and capital both similar but slightly larger. These characteristic capitals have been previously described.§ They bear carvings on all four sides—string courses in florid ornament much varied, and a broad band of jovial *ganás*, musicians and dancers. The ornamentation extends to the neck of the columns, whence tassels and loops of pearls droop down the shaft.

The majority of the pillars are still erect and unbroken. Nearly half retain their capitals. Horizontal slabs joined up the columns at floor level.

Between the four pillars at the south-west corner a squared space is paved with stone slabs, slightly higher than floor level. This would imply either a small inner shrine, or that ascent was made at this point by a wooden staircase to an upper room.

The *sanda-kada-pahana* below the staircase resembles in general design that at the entrance steps to the "Daladá Máligáwa" and *viharé* of Monastery B.|| The carving is in sunk relief. The outer band is of "cobra-leaf" pattern; the second contains a deeply cut series of the four beasts in the regular order—elephant, horse, lion, bull—nine in all, so distributed that an elephant heads, and brings up the tail of, the procession. The third concentric band exhibits a variant form of undulating creeper with leaves curling to either side alternately. In the fourth is a row of small *hansas* closely packed, their heads and necks resting on the fillet which separates them from the band above. Finally the centre of the stone is occupied by an expanded lotus.

Piriven.

The four buildings (*c, d, e, f*) lying closest to the angles of the *viharé*, about 28 ft. distant, were its four *piriven*, or monks' dwellings. These faced each other, two and two, in front and at the back of the shrine.

At the two south-east and north-east, except a few pillar stumps and some traces of the basement to show where entrance steps had once been, there is nothing but the outline. The corresponding pair to the south-west and north-west (which match each other) have been more fortunate. All four buildings were 30 ft. square and once sixteen-pillared.

The north-west *pirivena* is the best preserved, the steps especially. These, like nearly all, stand out from the building, and were sheltered by a roof supported on a pillar at either side. The stairs consisted of a moonstone and four steps, plain; with a pair of guardstones figured with *Nágas*, five-hooded; balustrades of the simpler *makara* type; and at the head of the staircase a landing in front of the doorway.

The south-west *pirivena* has lost some of its steps, both terminals, and the balustrades.

Cells.

At the back of the north-west *pirivena* on higher ground were erected additional verandahless rooms (*g*) for monks. The main block is elongated and has twelve pillars in two lines of six, after the plan of the cells near Thúpárama Dágaba.

Behind these again was a building of thirty-six pillars (*h*) entered from the north. The boundary wall between Monasteries G and H runs west close past this building.

* Annual Report, 1898, pp. 2, 3.

† Annual Report, 1897, p. 2.

‡ The present pair flanking the entrance are less, 9½ in.

§ Annual Report, 1893, p. 3.

|| Annual Reports, 1895, p. 3; 1897, p. 2.

Other Buildings.

Three other sites probably belong to this Monastery. These lie south and south-east of the inner enclosure.

(i) Measures 26 ft. north to south by 18 ft. But seven pillar stumps are left of the twelve which the building probably had. There is no sign of the entrance.

(j) Ten yards south-west of (i) is a second site on which are eight stumps. This was either a twenty- or twenty-four-pillared ruin, judging by the large solitary *makara* balustrades and ornamental moonstone unearthed here.

The moonstone has either been badly footworn, is much weathered, or was never fully carved. The ornamentation shows a semi-circular lotus at the centre of the slab and a "cobra-leaf" band round its upper edge.

(k) Eight yards south-west of the south-east *pirivena* stood a building 36 ft. east and west by 20 ft. broad. Traces of brick moulding are to be seen round the basement. Nearly all the stumps of twenty-four pillars are traceable. The single entrance was on the north up plain steps, of which the moonstone, a broken guardstone, and the displaced landing stone above are left. The floor was paved with brick towards the back.

Inside this building was found a unique slab, 3 ft. 2 in. square, with suggestive carvings. At the centre is cut a full-blown lotus, and round the margin of the top surface a band containing the *swastika* and other Buddhistic emblems besides a pair of the four animals familiar on elaborate moonstones, facing each other at the middle of each side.*

Monastery I.

Monastery I, fellow to Monastery H, adjoins it on the south, and was perhaps not separated from it by a dividing wall.

The cluster of five buildings, viháre and four annexes, stand further back west than those in Monastery H.

This group was encircled by a delimiting quadrangular wall, 178 ft. by 166 ft., with four porticos at the cardinal points of entrance.

Mura-gé.

A couple of pillars protruding from the high mound of earth to the west of the *pita-vidiya* of Ruwanveli Seya indicates the buried site of (a) the entrance porch to the monastery.

From this *mura-gé* a straight path, as at Monastery H, conducted to the inner enclosure at its eastern portico. This was the double-door kind found at Monastery B near Thúpárama. A portion of its moulded stone basement still remains, as well as the door sills and one or two steps.

The porticos on the north, south, and west were smaller and had plain terminals with splayed balustrades to their stairs.

Viháre.

This viháre (b) is a close duplicate, *mutatis mutandis*, of that in Monastery H, except for the additional elaborateness of its portico and staircase. The ruin is on the whole in better preservation than its counterpart.

It measures 66 ft. from north to south and 45 ft. from east to west, and was supported on the same number of columns as the other shrine, viz., thirty-two—eight rows of four from the front. The columns of both in no respect differ, except that the two pillars on either side of the doorway at the southern viháre are of the same size as the rest. The majority of the pillars remain standing, and capitals still crown about half. The small chamber at the south-west corner was entered by a door the sill of which is in position.

But for the disappearance of the two guardstones (almost certainly nine-hooded *Nāga doratupālas*), which should "support" the ends of the balustrades to the stairs, the portico of this viháre is virtually as complete as when first erected. The granite steps and massy landing flag at their head (whose risers bear the regular ornamentation in one of the many variant forms of conventionalized flowery pilasters, string courses, and triple *ganās*) are slightly water-worn and weathered. Vegetation too is forcing its way between the steps and the moulded facing of the pediment. Otherwise the whole portico is in almost perfect preservation.

The finished staircase rivals those of the viháre in Monastery B near Thúpárama, which they follow very closely in design, save only for the carvings on the outer face of their balustrades. These are of the best *makara*-capped type, with the same happy pair of dwarfs posturing on either hand upon the inner side of the wing-stones above the first step. The outer face bears single semi-profile lions, like those at the "Daladá Máligāwa" and elsewhere: the only other ornamentation is a beautifully carved arabesque—a lotus stalk with curling leaves (in lieu of the usual plain pilasters) on which rest the *makaras'* clawed feet.

The ornamental moonstone below the staircase resembles, but transcends in boldness of execution, its neighbour at the sister viháre (Monastery H). The same distribution of four concentric semi-circles—"cobra leaf" fringe round the surface margin; next the band of the same nine animals in the same order (elephant, horse, lion, bull) passing to right; then eleven *hansas*, but of larger size, each trailing a lotus bud in its beak; and finally, within the innermost circle, the invariable full-blown *neḷum mala* (lotus flower).

Piriven.

The four *piriven* (c d, e, f), though of the same outline dimensions, 31 ft., were not all of the same design.

Those situated south-west and south-east have been almost entirely despoiled. Two small *Nāga* terminals in limestone mark the steps of the south-east *pirivena* on the north. The south-west *pirivena* has been spared only its depressed ante-sill slab above where the steps once stood.

* This, and a somewhat similar slab bearing a lotus in the centre and leafy ornamentation in the spandrils from Monastery K (Abhayagiriya Ruins, east), have been removed to the Anurādhapura Museum premises.

The *piriven* to the north-east and north-west appear to have been an exact pair. The former is in very good preservation. The plain steps, moonstones, terminals, and angularly-bent balustrades remain almost intact. This staircase projects from a small stone-flagged portico with moulded stone sides. On this both the *sedilia* kerbs, found near, have been replaced. The basement of the building was as usual in brick, following the lines of the moulding of the stone portico.

Like the *piriven* of Monastery H, these four were also sixteen-pillared buildings.

In the space enclosed by the four *piriven* were unearthened massive figures of an elephant and of a lion, both carved in full round from limestone.* These would have stood at, or near, the east and north porticos respectively. Probably figures of horse and bull once also existed for the south and west sides.

Pilima-gé.

Directly behind the viharé and its *piriven*, and formerly approached through the western portico of the inner enclosure, is at this day a high mound sloping down all round.†

This grassy hillock‡ is topped by four pillars arranged as a rough square. These are somewhat of the size and type of the columns at the viharés in Monasteries H and I. They are 9 ft. 4 in. in height by 1 ft. 2 in. section at the shaft; but the almost vertically sided capitals (only 1 ft. 9½ in. square) with their heavy abacus (7 in. thick) gives them a clumsy look. In one feature the ornamentation of the pillars differs markedly from all others yet discovered—the two extra fillets below the familiar band of dwarfs on the capitals. The upper fillet displays eleven lions, five on each side of a central fronting lion, facing outwards: in the lower fillet similarly ten *hansas* are shown with their backs to a florid design in the middle. There are signs of plain pillar stumps outside these four ornamental columns. A *yantra-gala*, 3 ft. square, of twenty-five holes lies exposed within the pillars.

Excavation failed to elicit more than portions of a rubble foundation of the shrine, which probably stood above a series of terraces in the manner of the central viharé of the southern quadrangle at Toluva. It must have been reached by two or three flights of stairs starting from the level of the Monastery buildings to its east. But trenches run into the mound disclosed no vestiges of steps or terraced walls—additional proof of the utter destruction wrought among the majority of the ruins in the Ruwanveli-Thúpárama area.§

Extra Building.

To the left of the earth-bound (*a*) entrance porch (*muragé*) into Monastery I is an oblong ruin. This was dug out, as far as desirable, from the same high and continuous mound of earth which lines the west side of the broad procession path (*pet-maga*) round Ruwanveli Dágaba. The building measures 63 ft. north and south by 46 ft. across. It has sixty pillars, all rough, was surrounded by a wall 3 ft. thick of double stone slabs evenly laid, and had apparently but one entrance facing north. Whether the stone wall was carried up in brick is doubtful. The object of this heavily finished structure is left uncertain.

Pokuna.

A few yards south-east of the inner enclosure of Monastery I is one of the large oblong stone-constructed *pokunu* of Anurádhapura. There are in all about half a dozen of these “gháts” or bathing-places still remaining; but all are much ruined.¶ The “Kuttam Pokuna” on the Outer Circular Road is the handsomest example.

The facing on the north side of this *pokuna* has completely collapsed; the other three sides are on the whole in fair order. The *pokuna*, like others of its kind, was faced with dressed slabs so laid that the sides approach each other in stepped batter slightly towards the bottom, with two or three intermediate horizontal gangways to serve according to the depth of the water. One staircase of three flights led down the centre of the south side.¶ Each flight had its own splayed balustrades and plain terminals, and at the head of the stairs stood a pair of flanking pedestals. This, as most of such *pokunu*, was protected against silt washing in by a bold ovolo parapet kerb all round. The *pokuna* measures 105 ft. east to west by 54 ft. approximately, and was about 15 ft. in depth.

Monastery J.

There must have been yet another Monastery belonging to the Ruwanveli Séya entourage immediately south of Monastery I, and on the site now occupied by the grounds and house of the Assistant to the Government Agent.

Within these premises are two or three groups of pillar stumps even now.

The entrance porch of this Monastery has been excavated. It lay, like that of Monastery I, close to the outer quadrangle of Ruwanveli Dágaba, and was of considerable size. In front (east) it was double-staired, with a slab-faced basement, and vase-pattern terminals to one flight of steps.

South and north-west of this *mura-gé* two or three sites were partially dug; but the Monastery is past detailed identification, owing to “modern improvements.”

South of this Monastery runs a broad depression, evidently an ancient street leading to Basawakkulam tank on the west. This street is tapped at right angles by a still wider road, which in former days led south as far as the Isurumuniya and Vessagiri Monasteries below Tisa-veva.

* Now at the Anurádhapura Museum. For the four beasts and their cardinal points see Annual Report, 1891, p. 4, ¶.

† The west side has been cut through by the modern road along Basawakkulam bund.

‡ One of the two inscribed pillars found some years ago at Basawakkulam, and now in the Colombo Museum, stood on this mound. “Bhaya-vápi,” the ancient name of the tank, which dates from the time of Paṇḍukábhaya, occurs in one of the 10th century records as “*Baye-vev*” (Abhaya-veva). See Müller, *Ancient Inscriptions in Ceylon*, pp. 55, 78.

§ The inner enclosures of both Monasteries H and I had at a later period been disfigured by temporary erections for some ephemeral purpose formed of stones, pillars (dressed and rough), and brick recklessly procured from the surrounding buildings.

¶ The so-called “Queen’s Bath,” the square, special type *pokuna* on the road to the Kachchéri, was restored by the Public Works Department in 1890-1.

¶ It can hardly be mere coincidence that the steps into this class of *pokuna* descend almost invariably from the south

(ii.) "Elala Sohona."

Excavation round the base of this *dágaba* was resumed for a while, in the hope of joining up the broad cuttings on the north and east by a deep trench skirting that quadrant of the ruin.

The digging and removal of the spoil proved too expensive for a limited vote. Further work has, therefore, been stopped.*

(iii.) Puliyanikulam Ruins.

Some very desirable finishing work was done towards making the regularly planned Monastery at Bandára Puliyanikulam more open, attractive, and easier of access from the two thoroughfares which pass it—the high road to Jaffna and "MacBride's Deviation."

To this end forest trees have been freely "parked," the retaining wall of the quadrangle built afresh from its fallen slabs along half the north and the whole of the east side, the stone stylobate of the *dágaba* re-adjusted, and the ground from north to east as far as the "Deviation" road cut down to its former level. The revetments, &c., of the *Pilima-gé* and *Piriven* to the north were also reset.

Ancient Burial Mound.†

The Jaffna road on the west separates the Monastery from an extensive mound, flattish, covering some $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

Below its surface a strange, and hitherto unrecorded, series of structures was come upon.

Cross trenches cut to the cardinal points on the summit of the mound revealed much *débris* of broken, tileless brick at a depth of 4 ft.

At the point of intersection of the trenches a pit was, therefore, dug to ascertain to what depth this unexplainable brick spoil extended. With the deepening of the shaft the *débris* grew larger, half bricks being dug out.

Shell A.—At a depth of 10 ft. an apparent pavement of complete paved bricks was reached, some very large. The shaft was then widened. At its inner edge the supposed pavement descended as a brick wall not quite vertical. Trenched along, the face of the brickwork gradually developed a concave outline, south-east and south-west.

The curving shell walls were found not to be everywhere level or continuous as the central earth was dug out and the pit deepened; in places break-away gaps occur.

Gradually the two side walls curled round again to meet at the south in oval form. Part of the east wall is some feet above the present top of the shell wall elsewhere: much is unbroken, clearly defined, and 19 ft. in depth at one point. The wall facing is perfect on the north and west sides, but broken away on the south and south-west. The walls may have been vertical originally: at present the east side slopes, the north is concave, the west overhangs. Some of the bricks are 1 ft. 9 in. by 1 ft. by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.

The thickness of the walls increases in proportion to its depth, the outer face being carried down in a rough batter. At the highest part remaining—on the east—the facing of the shell is nearly 3 ft. thick; on the level of the pavement at bottom it is at least 4 to 5 ft.

Independent of the *débris* fallen in from the retaining walls this brick shell was filled with earth of a gravelly character. The bottom had been once paved with one course of large bricks (1 ft. 3 in. by 11 in. by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.). A strip of this pavement about $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide remains at the south end. A pit sunk 6 ft. lower disclosed only soft standstone.

The axis of this ovoid shell lies nearly north and south, and measures 21 ft. 6 in. Its greatest width, towards the south, is 15 ft. 8 in. The brick pavement course at the bottom of the walls is 21 ft. below the mound's average present surface.

On widening the shaft in the mound northwards the walls of two more "shells" were traced, at much the same level, and the *débris*, &c., inside them removed.

Shell B.—Occurs slightly west of north from shell A: their walls unite.

In shape this little shell proved to be an irregular parallelogram, the south-west corner alone making a right angle.

The main axis runs just east of north.

The brick facing of its north-west side was at first stepwise, each course of brick projecting slightly beyond the one above. Lower down the brickwork became more vertical. The soil between the walls was of sandy consistency.

The shell narrowed down very slightly on all sides to brick pavement 9 ft. 2 in. wide north by 6 ft. 2 in. south, and 7 ft. 4 in. east, 8 ft. 4 in. west. This floor consists of three courses of 18 in. bricks, and within it is an oblong pit, five courses deep, about 5 ft. 10 in. by 3 ft. 4 in.

Immediately below the penultimate course was found a flat stone, nearly a cubit square, exactly at the centre of the pit and laid due north and south. This stone rested on a last layer of similar bricks; below which was sandy gravel.

Shell C.—This adjoins the small shell B on the north. It is larger than shell A, stretches in a general westerly direction, is irregularly shaped, and differs from the other two in containing inner shells (D, E, F). Starting from shell B, the south wall runs westwards, whilst the other way it trends north-east and north, then suddenly bends back sharply south-west, west, and north-west.

The same plan of excavation was adopted at shell A. Trenches were cut along the walls, the centre earth being gradually brought to the same depth; then trenching again, and so on. The south wall gradually swept round from west northwards to roughly meet the parallel north wall. Shell C stretches nearly 45 ft. along its east and west axis, and is 24 ft. broad at its east end, but narrows to 14 ft. further west. Its depth is 20 ft. and upwards. Where the walls of the shell approach each other towards the west some lime concrete was unearthed.

This large shell contains three irregularly shaped compartments, in no way communicating one with another, and marked off by low brick walls, well preserved, nearly at the bottom of the great pit.

Shell D.—Its enclosing wall starts in curved line from the north face of shell C about half way along its length, and unites with the north-east wall, forming an inner shell 28 ft. in length, east and west, by 16 ft. wide at the east end, but only 6 or 7 ft. on the west.

* The spoil from this hillock might well be utilized in gradually filling up pestilential ponds and low ground in Anurádhapura.

† A provisional supposition, which may possibly be disproved by further investigation.

Shell E.—A similar wall runs parallel with the south side of C, its ends being united to it by short cross walls. This narrow elongated inner shell measures 18 ft. by 2 ft. 9 in.

Shell F.—Cut off at the west end of the large shell C is a third inner shell 21 ft. long, widening west from 5 ft. 6 in. to 14 ft. at broadest. Its floor is at a somewhat higher level than those of D and E.

Whatever their original contents, these shells must have been most thoroughly rifled at some period. The sole "finds" consisted of a circular copper "Buddhist" coin* (shell A); a piece of curved green glass, a fragment of blue glass, one red bead, two pieces of cut crystal, and some bone dust (shell C). Shell B yielded nothing.

In addition to the digging out of these shells sunk into the top of the mound, a trial trench was driven in due west from the high road which cuts the site on the east. It struck a brick wall, perfectly smooth faced, about 3 ft. high, running due north and south and almost parallel to the main road. This wall appears to have no foundations whatever. It may have been the enclosing wall of the raised ground within which these shells were built up; but it stopped suddenly after a short distance, and could not be further traced north or south. A wall of only two courses of bricks, crossing at right angles and only traceable for a few feet, overlaid it.

Other trenches were tried towards the south-east of the mound, and brick *débris* was unearthed, growing larger in proportion to the depth dug. The existence here of more shells similar to those excavated seems probable.

But the magnitude of the work of fully gutting the extensive mound forced an unwilling cessation of further work at this extremely interesting site. Some months have been occupied in the laborious excavation of the three deep shells A, B, C.† To complete the task would have necessitated the employment of the entire force exclusively on the work for an unreasonable time, having regard to the many other ruined sites still undug. This expenditure of time and funds from a restricted vote did not appear justifiable at present. Work was, therefore, abandoned at Puliyanikulam in August.

What purpose did these huge, mysterious, brick-lined pits—ill-shaped, mutually adjacent, though wholly unconnected—serve? Manifestly they are of great age.

They were not the dwellings of troglodytes; they can hardly have been brick or lime kilns, from their general unsuitability for such use; nor granaries; nor refuse bins of the ancient city's scavengers.‡

The most reasonable theory at present, without further light, would seem to be that this gravelly mound, or hillock, across the Malwatu-oya (which flows not far distant) was one of the "*susāna*," or cemeteries, of early Anurādhapura,§ and the brick "cists" the actual receptacles for cinerary inhumation.

Southern India possesses hundreds of its own peculiar prehistoric burial grounds, *mostly situated on gravel-laden elevations*—none very like these immense comprehensive "graves," but with features strongly suggestive of a common object.

Ancient burial places are common in Southern India; but *differ much in their construction*. In some instances they are simply kistvaens, in others—and more commonly—dolmens or cairns (as on the Nilgiris), and lastly the coffin-like vessels [at Pallāvaran, Adichanallūr, &c.] made of coarse pottery. The dolmens also differ in type, being in some cases roomy stone-built chambers with a cap-stone, *the whole usually buried in the earth*.

The Pallāvaran sarcophagi vary in length from upwards of six feet down to a little over two feet and stand on strong legs. The employment of earthenware coffins instead of chambers made of stone was probably determined by the absence of gneiss capable of being easily split up into thin slabs, which is so common in some other districts.

In some districts large globular sepulchral urns are very common and are generally pyriform jars. There are also occasionally found big vessels of a fusiform shape.

The most important contents of these prehistoric sepulchres are of course human bones; but in many cases only the dust remains, or the bones have suffered so much from decay as to be of little scientific value.

The articles lodged along with human bones, or in the places which once contained them, form a very curious paraphernalia, plainly pointing to some glimmering idea of a future life analogous to the present. Thus there are personal ornaments (beads, rings, &c.), small pots for holding water, and various implements and weapons. No inscriptions have ever been found within the graves.

Everywhere in Southern India a great resemblance is observable in the shape and size of the vessels found in these prehistoric graves, a fact indicative of a primitive state of civilization.

These structures denote a certain stage in the mental history of a people. The psychological explanation of the origin of these monuments lies in the desire of perpetuating the memory of the dead, or of important events, whether the obos of the Mongols, the kurugans of Siberia, the tumuli of the mound-builders, or the cromlechs, dolmens, and menhirs of Brittany, India, and Africa. *Differences in construction were probably due to the nature of the material available and to variation in customs and beliefs.*||

The graves at Pallāvaran are all *either on the hills or on the sloping ground immediately below them*. This may have been the result of the ancient edict which forbade the use of fertile land for burial; or it may have been that the same idea which the Hindús, along with other nations, have of the sacredness of the hills, induced them to choose such places for the deposit of their dead.¶

That the Puliyanikulama sepulchral chambers (if such they were) had been wholly despoiled is borne out by their ruined condition above; and the marked absence of the numerous deposits (pottery, &c.) found in the Southern Indian tombs.**

Pillared Building.

Upon the mound stands a single pillared ruin towards the north-west.

Its existence is best explained by the assumption that it is the sole survivor of a series of extra *piriven* outside, but appertaining to, the Puliyanikulam Monastery.

The building possesses four rows of pillars, six in each row, east to west. At the entrance on the east nothing remains but one step. The facing of the basement may not have been moulded. After removing the top earth there were slight indications of a brick wall surrounding the outer pillars.

* Some fifty of these coins were dug up in private land near the Malwatu-oya in 1893. A selection was sent to the Colombo Museum. Cf. Mr. Parker's discovery at Mágama (C. A. S. Journal, vol. VIII., No. 27, 1884, pp. 51-53).

† In all 242 cubes of earth were removed to a depth of 20 ft.

‡ *Mahāvamsa*, X.

§ *Id.* X.; XV.

|| Government of Madras, Archaeology, G. O. No. 671, May 12, 1887.

¶ *Id.* No. 1,135, August 12, 1887.

** The question is of much antiquarian interest, and calls for fuller investigation when the Archaeological Survey can return to this strange mound after further advance in the excavations of other areas in, and around, Anurādhapura.

II.—POLONNARUWA.

The first season's operation of the Archæological Survey at Polonnaruwa commenced in May this year, and closed at the end of September.

"Pulasti-pura" or "Kālīṅga-pura" lies still for the most part buried in jungle. But its main streets are well marked to this day, no less than its structures.

The ruins, since their re-discovery in 1820, have been often described, and were well photographed by Lawton in 1870,* when they were partially cleared by order of Government. They stretch for about five miles along the bund of a large artificial lake, which must have been ten or twelve miles round.†

Some useful clearing and excavation was done at Polonnaruwa, upon the order of Sir A. H. Gordon, by the Disáva of Tamankaduwa in 1885 and 1886. Systematic work does not seem to have been attempted, owing to the impossibility of procuring regular labour locally, and of exercising direct supervision.

The Disáva worked under the direction of Mr. S. M. Burrows, who later furnished a valuable Report on the progress made.‡

The greater part of the work has been carried out under the superintendence of the Dissáva. The extreme drought of last year made it impossible to burn a good deal of the surrounding jungles. One immediate result of this has been the laying bare of the wide moat which surrounded the fortified part of the city. This can now be traced along its whole length, and in some places remains of the city wall are observable on its inner bank.

1. *Thūpārāma*.—The entrance to, and interior of, this curious building was almost entirely blocked up with fallen masonry and other *débris*. This has been removed (except from the vestibule) at a considerable cost of labour, for most of the fallen blocks of masonry were so large that they had to be broken up with the pickaxe before removal was possible. But the labour was well expended, for the inner and principal shrine is one of the very few buildings remaining to us in either capital, with a perfect roof; certainly the only building of such a size. The outer walls of a part at least of this building are seriously cracked, and in an evidently perilous condition.

2. *Heṭa Dā-gé*.—This building was so utterly choked with *débris* that it was impossible to make out its original shape and object. It has now, however, been successfully cleared; and the clearing has been fruitful in results. No less than three long inscriptions, two legible and one partially illegible, were found in this building. The floor of the inner shrine is remarkably perfect. At the northern end of the inner shrine, facing the entrance, are the remains of three large erect statues of Buddha.

3. *Sat Mahal Prāsāda*.—This has been thoroughly cleared and the *débris* removed from the lower storey: but it remains as mysterious and puzzling a building as ever.

4. Between this building and the "*gal-pota*" there are the remains of a building which may have been a "*baṇa maduwa*" (preaching hall). Here we discovered a large carved moonstone and steps excellently preserved, and also a very curious curvilinear granite pillar, quite uninjured.

5. Excavations have been commenced at a building, not yet identified, which lies close to the *Heṭa Dā-gé* on the west. It is remarkable for a series of fine pillars, decorated throughout their length with a bold and peculiar scroll pattern. There is a great deal more work still to be done here. At the northern end of the building we unearthed a large erect, and a smaller sedent, statue of Buddha.

6. A little to the south-west a great deal of work has been done at the building which we now know to be the *Nissanka Latā Mandapaya* ("Nissanka's hall of the flower-scroll"). This is perhaps the most interesting building in Polonnaruwa, for it presents a structural example in granite of the "Buddhist Railing"; most of the stone posts are still standing. A great many fragments of an extremely ornate inscription have been found in the building, and pieced together as far as possible; but, unfortunately, a large number of pieces have been removed or have disappeared. It is fortunate, however, that we are able to decipher from what remains both the name of the building and of the king who built it.

7. To the west of the *Latā Mandapaya*, a great deal of work has been done at the western entrance, which last year was a mere hillock of *débris*. This is the main approach to the extensive artificial platform on which all the buildings described above, and several others, stood. It consists of three tiers of terraces, each approached by a long flight of steps.

8. Though a great deal has been done in this neighbourhood, almost as much remains to be done. Neither the *Wata Dā-gé* nor the *Daladā Māligāwa* have yet been touched, and both are capable of, and much need, extensive restoration, and there are several other minor buildings which will well repay excavation.

9. At an angle of the city moat a small temple of Vishṇu, built entirely of granite, was discovered, and has been excavated. Its inner shrine contains a good statue of Vishṇu, which has been replaced in position. Several excellently carved stone figures were found here.

10. The original *Vishṇu Dēvāla*, which is not far off, has been thoroughly cleared.

11. The exploring party found the remains of no less than four small Hindú temples, all close together. One of these contains a perfect statue of Vishṇu, and another has near it a large statue of a goddess with eight hands, standing on the head of a buffalo, which is probably a representation of Kālī. These temples are mostly of brickwork, with stone doorways and pillars. Close to them are the ruins of a much larger building, which apparently consisted of an outer and an inner enclosure. The place is well worth excavating.

12. The *Nayipena Vihāre* can hardly be claimed as a new discovery; but it has been thoroughly cleared and partly excavated.

13. Both the *Rankot Dāgaba* and the *Kiri Dāgaba* have been thoroughly cleared of the timber and dense undergrowth that were threatening their stability, and the surrounding terraces weeded and cleaned.

14. *Demala Māha Séya*.—Entrance was effected through a side door, and no less than four windows—only to be checked on each occasion by an enormous mass of rubble and fallen masonry, rendering further ingress impossible, and further work extremely unadvisable, owing to the ever-present danger to the workmen from falling masses of brickwork. The only way, therefore, to obtain ingress is to work steadily inwards from the eastern, or main doorway, removing the *débris* as much as possible from the top, or apparent roof, and sliding it down an inclined plane. Considerable progress has been made in this work, but it must necessarily be a very long and laborious job.

15. The *Sita Māligāwa* ("Palace of Coolness") on the opposite side of the lake to the Dissáva's bungalow has been cleared; but, apart from the attractiveness of its site, is of no architectural interest. Beyond it, however, the Dissáva has discovered a collection of four Buddhist viharés, one of which contains four broken but elaborately carved pillars of an unique type.

16. The labour force available in the neighbourhood is most unsatisfactory. The Dissáva has to get in a few men from each of the small villages within reach, and is thus put to endless trouble, with a very doubtful result. For the Moors are extremely independent, and depart without the slightest warning, and even without their pay, if they do not like the work or are attacked with qualms as to their crops; while the local Tamils and Singhalese are a miserable lot.

In 1897, in connection with the Topographical Survey of Tamankaduwa, the general "site of the ancient city of Polonnaruwa" was located. A full survey has yet to be made.

It was not considered necessary to make any detailed survey, but enough was laid down to show the position of the principal ruins, the fort, and the Yoda-ēla which flowed through the city from Topavēwa tank.§

* Since by Skeen & Co., Colombo, and others.

† Sessional Paper X. of 1886, pp. 7-11: here summarized.

‡ Mr. T. W. Rhys Davids, *Indian Antiquary*, vol. II., 1873, p. 246. § Administration Report, Survey Department, 1897.

The northern wall of the ancient city met the tank bund on the west near the spill. Thence the western wall was carried along the crest of the bund southwards for about a quarter of a mile, when it curved slightly inwards and continued as the Citadel wall.

Near the point of deflection, the embankment of the tank leaves the city wall and juts into the tank in a south-westwardly direction. Swerving south, with two sharp turns east, it unites at right angles with the straight bund, which runs thence south for more than a mile till it strikes the city's southern wall.

It was within the space formed by this projecting bund that the Archæological Survey first broke ground. It is bounded by the ramp of the Citadel to the east, a connecting spur bund and the tank to the south, and by the tank on its other two sides—a clearly defined area covering some 20 acres in all.

With the exception of limited spaces immediately around the Circuit Bungalow and the Revenue Officer's house, this promontory was hardly less hidden under forest and scrub jungle than the rest of the ancient city.

The clearing of brush and felling of trees thickly spread, had, therefore, to be undertaken simultaneously with the excavation of the ruined sites in this quarter.

The ruins all line the rubble embankment of the promontory and a strip of high ground, more or less wide, behind it, stretching from the north-west corner to the junction with the main bund of the tank on the south-east.

Little showed above ground.

Leaving the Circuit Bungalow, the road passes on the right a collection of stunted pillars which mark the site of the great Durbar hall, standing on a slight eminence. The pillars are all ornamented, and many of them bear traces of an inscription. Between these pillars and the Circuit Bungalow is a shapeless mass of brickwork with a small "pokuna" below it, which may possibly be the remains of the king's palace.*

Proceeding from the outset systematically, as at Anurádhapura, work was concentrated during the four and a half months at one point—the ruins situated on the extensive promontory overlooking the tank. These comprise—†

- (a) The "Council Chamber," a building with massive stone pillars standing upon a high platform, stone-faced.
- (b) The "Audience Hall," a large structure of brick and mortar, stucco-plastered, and once storied at its western end.
- (c) A "Pavilion," partially walled, with short stone piers, and floored in plaster. This building stood within the tank.
- (d) A "Mausoleum," brick-built, formerly storied, and ornamented with stucco-mouldings overlaid with colour.
- (e) The walls of structures now buried connected with a *pokuna*, or some irrigation work lying immediately below the tank.
- (f) The pillars of a buried building, and a brick-strewn mound, close to the Circuit Bungalow on the tank bund.

The form and object of the ruins at these last-named sites (e), (f) have yet to be ascertained by excavation.

(a) "Council Chamber."

The building, to which the term "Council Chamber" fitly applies, was briefly described nearly thirty years ago by Mr. (now Professor) T. W. Rhys Davids:—‡

On the bund of the lake itself once stood the hall in which these inscriptions were found. All that remains now are forty-eight large stone pillars with carved capitals supported on a stone platform, round the base of which are sculptured a row of lions. There are also several fine stone slabs; a flight of entrance steps with handsomely carved balustrades; and the splendid lion on which the inscription was found. This was lying almost entirely buried at some distance from the Hall, and was set up with great difficulty.§ It had probably been thrown out of the Hall by the Tamils when they took Pulastipura, and may formerly have stood between the inscribed pillars.

Excavation has but further confirmed the ruin of the structure and the complete spoliation of its once handsome stylobate. The inner rows of twenty-four pillars still stand erect save two.|| Of the outer rows all but four have fallen. The robbery of the basement slabs has resulted in the collapse outwards of the pillars round the platform slopes, with strange regularity, as though deliberately pushed down. Not a single one of the heavy capitals now crowns its shaft.

The building's axis lies from north to south. From front to back the entire structure measures 45 ft. in breadth by 117 ft. in depth inclusive of an open portico, 17 ft. 6 in., on the north at a lower level. This was probably mounted by two or three steps, centrally placed, and directly opposite to the chief staircase, now wholly gone, a portion of one balustrade alone surviving. A single limestone lion in full round was discovered near the portico; and has been replaced upon the pedestal remaining at the head of the stairs.

The dimensions of the main building itself are 100 ft. north and south by 40 ft. across. It originally rose from a triplicated basement, of which the elevation and ornament are fortunately deducible with considerable certainty from the few slabs (plinth, dado, coping) left. These closely resemble another ruin very perfectly preserved—the so-called "Rāja Málīgāwa" within the Citadel.

The lowest part of the terraced pediment was 3 ft. in height. Its dado bore bas reliefs of single elephants in profile between finished pilasters. The second tier was higher (4 ft. 2 in.) and moulded in the stereotyped Anurádhapura type—cyma plinth and coping, divided by torus and broad vertical block. This member was carved with similar pilasters, each pair flanking a separate lion *passant guardant*, like those marking the balustrades to important staircases at Anurádhapura.

* Burrows, *Buried Cities*, 1885, p. 57.

† The denomination of the several ruined structures is, in the absence of definite proof, provisionally assigned.

‡ "Inscriptions at the Audience Hall of Parákrama Báhu," by T. W. Rhys Davids (*Indian Antiquary*, 1873, vol. II., pp. 246-249). A rough plan of the interior of the building is given, with texts and translations of the pillar records.

§ Removed since to the Colombo Museum by order of Sir W. H. Gregory, when Governor.

|| Unfortunately one (fifth pillar, west) of those inscribed.

Finally the topmost tier, standing 2 ft. 4 in. above the second, followed the same moulded form *sans* the "bull-nose." On its dado was presented a row of gesticulating *gaṇas*, every dwarf, as with the lions and elephants below, cut off from the next by a pilaster. The marginal surface of the cornice to the second portion of the pediment was adorned with a band of *hansas* and wavy creeper (*liyavel maldama*), whilst the top of the third tier exhibited only a band of *liyavel* without the birds. The highest coping lay flush with the floor of the chamber 2 ft. 8 in. outside the outer pillars. The entire basement projected 7 ft. 8 in.

The building seems to have been wall-less, except at the south. Its roof was supported upon forty-eight stout granite columns set out in two parallel lines, leaving an intercolumniation of 5 ft. 6 in. between the outer and inner rows, with a width of 12 ft. down the centre of the Hall. The exterior pillars are of slightly larger girth than the rest. Nearly all are of one design—four-sided at plinth and neck, but on the shaft chamfered intermediately into octagonal facets. Their capitals were of the branching order—moulded, but unadorned with carvings. The floor was laid in lime plaster, and the pillars stood 8 ft. 6 in. above it.

The building had a second narrow set of stairs, only 3 ft. wide, consisting of four steps above a plain moonstone raised concentrically, and clumsy wings shaped to a splay. This flight occurs about two-thirds down the west side of the platform.

A contemporary record inscribed on some of the pillars leaves the purpose of the ruin beyond doubt.* It was within this pillared building that the King Niṣṣaṅka Malla (1198–1207 A.D.) held his Council of State. The order of precedence was strictly fixed.

The *Sinhāsana* or "lion throne"† on which the king sat probably occupied the centre of the building near its further (south) end, fronting the entrance on the north.

A stone slab and brickwork at the back (south) indicate some special rooms or platforms.

Behind and about the monarch would be massed guards and attendants; in front stood his trusty Councillors. The Heir Apparent (*Yuva-rāja*) alone, besides the King, sat,‡ and on the right near the ninth pillar, east side. Next stood the Governor (*Epā-varun*);§ then the Commander-in-Chief (*Senevirādun*); the Prime Minister (*Pradhānayan*), the Secretary and Record-Keepers (*Potvarun etuluvū Kayasthayan*) at successive pillars, eighth to first. To the king's left, but not so close, stood the Elders of the Council (*Asampandī bhāraka Māṇḍalika-varun*), then the Sheriffs (*Chaurāsi-varun*), and finally the Chief Merchants (*Kaḍagosthāyehi ettavun*) at pillars sixth to fourth, west side. Thus the "official" and "unofficial" elements of the Council were ranged on either side of the "Council Chamber" in front of the sovereign.||

(b) "Audience Hall."

Beyond the "Council Chamber" southwards irregular masses of brickwork show up here and there amid the general *bouleversement* of ancient structures which now lie greatly buried, and unrecognizable, beneath their own slow, but ever increasing, ruin.

Of these the "Mausoleum," described below, alone displays much of its true pristine form above the ground.

A few yards south of the "Council Chamber" a long low elevation, tree-covered, with three or four great pieces of brick masonry cropping out in places, gave indication of some important site beneath the mound.

The work of removing the mass of *débris*—brick and mortar caked to the consistency of the stone—proved heavy.

Gradually a second large elongated ruin was revealed. Into the construction of this building (in sharp contrast with the "Council Chamber" adjoining) practically no stone entered: steps and minor work excepted all was of brick and mortar, heavily plastered.

The building lies lengthways east and west in juxtaposition to the "Council Chamber" and at right angles to it. The outer measurements of the basement, or platform, of the building make it considerably larger than the stone-pillared ruin—63 ft. on front and back by 133 ft. down the long sides. This basement extended all round 6 ft. 6 in. from the wall (itself 3 ft. 3 in. thick) of the building, and was 5 ft. in height, but softened by stepped duplication and some mouldings. Thick plaster still adheres freely on the west.

The main entrances were placed in the ends, instead of on the larger faces, of the building. The two perron staircases on the east and west were of the plainest form—stone steps (of which but few remain) flanked by brick helix-curved wings resting on moulded pediments.

Inside, the area was curtailed by a cross wall towards the west end, forming a separate room, 21 ft. wide by 14 ft. 6 in. The main part of the building was very spacious, and evidently an "Audience Hall," or other commodious chamber intended for large assemblies.

The roof was held by two rows of wooden pillars resting in morticed stones, but their exact number is left in doubt.

Along the side walls, and also on the east on either side of the passage from the entrance at that end, ran a low estrade, 6 ft. in width, providing a convenient seat for rows of occupants. At the west end of the Hall is a wider platform, rising higher to left and right. Here, against the cross wall at the middle, were exposed a brick *āsana* and a smaller seat to the right (south), both moulded and covered with plaster highly coloured. These seats were presumably occupied by the King and his Heir Apparent on occasions of State.¶

* "The inscriptions are very interesting as affording a reliable glimpse at the State ceremonial of that place and time, from which conclusions, with a large degree of certainty, may be drawn regarding others in more distant places and in more distant times" (T. W. Rhys Davids, *loc. cit.*, p. 247).

† For the inscriptions on the lion and pillars see Rhys Davids, *loc. cit.*, pp. 247–8; Müller, *Ancient Inscriptions in Ceylon*, pp. 93, 127.

‡ A small slab (2 ft. 4 in. square), inscribed as the seat of the Heir Apparent (Vira Báhu I., 1207–8 A.D.), was found displaced inside the building. The record (nearly as on the ninth pillar, east) runs:—*Sinhāsanaṃ yeḍḍehunkale Yuvarāja re sīti Mahapāṇavahanse hīndinā āsanayaṃ*.

§ Probably the King's brother, Vikrama Báhu I., who murdered his nephew (Vira Báhu) to reign but for three months.

|| Another *āsana*, on which the King sat when viewing musical festivals, was unearthed outside the building. It measures 3 ft. 9 in. and is inscribed in eight lines running round the top, like many similar slabs of Niṣṣaṅka Malla found at Polonnaruwa, from which its contents differ but little.

¶ The building may be that spacious hall (*tada kāhāra sālāwa*) referred to in an inscription at the Heṭṭa-dā-gé.

Entering from the west stairs and passing through the ante-room or private chamber, two very narrow flights of a few steps admitted through the cross wall to the platform on either side of the central *ásanaya*.

This western part at least of the Hall was storied. The lower portion of a right-angle stone staircase still exists at the south-west corner of the ante-room. Additional proof is afforded by the exceptionally large sockets for huge round wooden pillars left in the plastered floor of the platform within the Hall itself.

The ante-room on the west was furnished with every convenience. In its north-east corner was uncovered a broad couch 9 ft. 3 in. by 4 ft. 9 in., built of brickwork, flat on the top but freely moulded on its vertical sides 2 ft. 8 in. in height.

The plastered surface of this couch, and of the seats within the Hall, was painted in bright red, the sides in as vivid a blue.

To the left (west) of the couch a doorway admits to a manifest privy, enclosed between the outer wall of the building and that of the ante-room.

The "Council Chamber" and "Audience Hall" each stood in its own enclosure, one wall, pierced by two openings for mutual admission, sufficing to divide their premises north and south.

The precincts of the "Audience Hall" were more spacious, allowing a width of some 15 ft. round the building on three sides, and in front running out east as a broad bay. Thence a flight of steps descended into the traditional "King's Garden," on the further side of which, directly opposite, was one of the *doratu* (entrance porches) into the Citadel.

Appurtenant Ruins.

A close lying range of minor ruins between the "Council Chamber" and "Audience Hall" was next excavated. They were but little below the present ground level. As only some 2 ft. height of basements and walls remain, nothing can be gathered regarding these subsidiary buildings except their bare outlines.

A wall running north and south shut them off from the space around the "Council Chamber" and "Audience Hall," of which it also fixed their western limit.

Two distinct main buildings were traced in the middle of separate "compounds." The larger building, which had a verandah round it and other adjuncts, lies north with open ground on the south; the other ruin fronted east, and was more confined. Two oblong platforms and a circle of brickwork, all small and isolated, had some special object, not apparent.

A narrow passage led between the two groups to a broad walk and a gangway, paved thickly with pebble concrete, which skirts the edge of the tank bund.

(c) "*Pavilion.*"

In the tank about 15 yards from the batter *relapána*, or "stone-(break)-wave," of the promontory's embankment west of the above ruins, is an artificially constructed mound. Untouched, with large trees and jungle growth covering the sloping sides, the mound gave every appearance of being a ruined *dágaba*, buried beneath its *débris* and vegetation. In reality the structure has proved to be neither circular nor of a sacred character.

The platform upon which it was placed is some 30 yards square at its foot, and faced with rubble carried upwards at an angle of 45 degrees to a height of 12 ft. or so. Upon this rectangular elevation was raised a brick-walled building, nearly square (47 ft. north and south by 43 ft. deep). Sixty-four stone pillars, or short pillars, were utilized—mainly to strengthen the brick walls in which they were encased, since only eight stand free.

The most natural arrangement—single chamber enclosed by a walled verandah on all sides—may have been adopted for the interior of the building originally. As now revealed by excavation the vagaries of the ruin argues an inscrutable freak of the architect, who either rejected convenience of design from the first, or transformed the simplicity of an existing building into a veritable maze.

A gangway at least 6 ft. in width surrounded the building. The entrance from the east led direct into a central hall, access to the verandah on either hand being barred by cross walls. This room measures 24 ft. by 15 ft. 6 in., and contains the few pillars not absorbed by the brick walls. At the middle of the back wall is a cramped opening but 2 ft. in width, which admits to a second, narrow, room of like breadth as the hall, but only 6 ft. 9 in. in depth. Limited space was still further curtailed from a subdivision of this room by semi-walls, thrown out east and west, into two cubicles in each of which were large block seats or beds built of masonry. The *enda* of the right chamber stretches across its north end: that of the corresponding cubicle to the left rests against the east wall leaving passage into the southern verandah through a gap in the wall on that side.

A similar opening in the west wall of the room led on into an enclosed verandah, or passage, 5 ft. wide. This verandah might have been expected to encircle both rooms freely; but irregularity rules everywhere. At the north-west, south-west, and south-east corners its width is reduced considerably: moreover easy passage from one portion to another is hampered at different points by a series of cross walls, with the narrowest of gaps, placed regardless of symmetrical balance. These openings—all doorless—probably marked entrances and exits of other small rooms.

The portion of the eastern verandah walled in from the entrance to the hall was converted into two additional cubicles, with similar masonry beds. These cubicles match in the position of the *endan* (beds) but otherwise differ. The right chamber communicates both with the verandah on the north as well as the central room through an opening at its north-east corner; the left could only be entered from the south verandah through an outer chamber on the south-east.

The floor, walls, and beds of this strange building were overlaid with a thick coating of plaster, coloured blue throughout, with the sole exception of the bevelled edge of the beds, which was lined in red.

Not one of the stone piers of the building is more than 5 ft. 3 in. in height; most are much less. They are of all descriptions and dimensions—shortened pillars (neatly squared or merely scapped), a semi-octagonal shaft, and pieces of door frames. There are no traces of sockets for wooden posts.

The roofing of such a building is necessarily problematical. Had the building a timbered storey resting on the short stone pillars and walls, its horizontal floor beams would have reduced the ground floor into a flat-roofed basement, low, dark, and barely habitable.

It may have been a "Pavilion," over which an awning could be stretched when required, to shelter royalty during the daytime from the sun, when resposing in this breeze-swept retreat.

A long flight of steps seems to have once mounted to the gangway of the building on the east from the tank bed, and signs are not wanting of steps up the bund opposite. Later, the building was probably connected to the promontory by a wooden bridge resting upon masonry abutments.

This island ruin is popularly connected with another mound, upon which some building exists known as "*Sita Máligáwa*," situated at the point of a spit of land across the tank to the south-west.

(d) "*Mausoleum*."

The wall which defines the southern boundary of the "Audience Hall" premises and of the extra buildings behind, runs straight to the gangway on the bund of the promontory.

This marked the limit on the north of other ancient sites once located along the bund and the high ground immediately east of it. Disconnected masses of heavy masonry, and portions of walls, protrude from the unturned ground in several places. Between the present site of the houses occupied by the Archæological Commissioner and the Revenue Officer is an irregular, wooded depression, in which pillars and other stonework can be partially discerned, amid tangled thorny brush which still pervades all. A large *pokuna* and connected buildings (e) must certainly have existed here.

Further south, near the point where the bund of the promontory and tank re-united, are a cluster of pillars of some ruined building and a brick-laden mound (f).

In the whole area one ruin alone now stands out pre-eminent, not merely by reason of its exceptional fine preservation, but because of the very peculiar—perhaps unique—design.

The structure (d) is built close against the boundary wall of the "Audience Hall" and its back appurtenances—so close to windward as to have sheltered and saved in its full height (8 ft.) a portion of the tapering, plaster-faced wall under its lee.

The building—to which the term "*Mausoleum*" has been at present applied—is on three sides, except for its wooden upper storey and roof no longer existing, virtually as perfect as the day on which it was built. Weathering of centuries has but little affected it. The west side had long fallen outwards—or, more likely, been deliberately broken through. The removal of the caked masses of brick and mortar (as hard as stone and less easy to break up) was slow work. An immense *palu* tree had also to be carefully cut out by the roots from the centre of the building.

The ground plan of the structure is of the recessed rectangular type not unknown at Anurádhapura.* Upon a plain low quadrangular pediment, 22 ft. 6 in. each way, was erected a building whose sides, if squared, would have measured 18 ft. 6 in. But by adding bay projections to the middle of each face dominant façades, 12 ft. in breadth, were obtained with flanking walls 3 ft. 3 in. wide, on either hand, which recede at right angles 1 ft. 10 in. from the front.

The walls rose vertically to a height of 30 ft., but were relieved by a series of chaste mouldings thrice repeated. The top was capped by some 2 ft. more of rounded masonry. The triplicated moulding of the wall face is somewhat similar to that of the "*Máligawa*" ruin within the Citadel at Anurádhapura.†

The surface ornamentation is tastefully conceived and has been completed with great care; the lines are true and sharp, the plaster hard and smooth. In more than one particular the present design possesses idiosyncrasies found only at Polonnaruwa, e.g., the stucco pilasters, the frieze of *hansas*, and, not least, the vivid and varied colouring of the entire façades. The moulding is on customary lines—ogee plinth, torus (round or bevelled), deep block, and cyma cornice—for all three tiers. The features which differentiate the ornamentation from the conventional design are the band of *hansas*, in low relief between two plain fillets directly below each cornice moulding, and the neatly executed pilasters at the angles of the recessed walls.‡

Like the "Audience Hall" and "Pavilion," the main colouring of the walls is in monochrome. A bright blue covers all the broadest spaces; only the pilasters and narrow string courses are picked out in red.

The walls up to the top of the second tier are 3 ft. thick; the third only 18 in. Of this upper part the best preserved portions are on the north and north-east faces, which are nearly complete.

At a later time a flight of steps was tacked on to the building outside the south-east corner. It ascends from east, then rises north, and finally bends back to east. This staircase proves that a storey existed, and of wood, for the upper walls are too thin to take arches.

The plastering inside is very rough and quite plain; the floor of thick plaster concrete, as usual in all these buildings.

As there are neither windows nor doors, the assumption that this unique structure was a "*Mausoleum*," or a tomb, is reasonable.

4.—CONSERVATION OF RUINS.

(i.) Toluville Area.

The reservation of the Toluville ruins was authorized by the Government in 1898.§ Charge of the area (about 64 acres in extent) was finally handed over to the Archæological Commissioner this year.||

(ii.) Moated Site below Nuwaravewa.

This ancient site, delimited by a deep moat, is connected to the present Anurádhapura-Trincomalee high road by a short causeway, a little east of the low-level sluice of Nuwara-veva.¶ It has been reserved for future excavation by the Archæological Survey.

* Cf. Annual Report, 1894, p. 3.

† Annual Report, 1897, p. 4.

‡ The *hansas* do not follow one direction. Thus, on the three front façades (east, north, and west) they are turned outwards from the centre; on the four ends of the facets they are shown as moving east, north, and westward. On the south façade the *hansas* all look west; and on its ends southwards.

§ Annual Report, 1898, p. 5.

|| Government Agent, 463/236 of April 24, 1900.

¶ Annual Report, 1895, p. 1.

5.—EPIGRAPHICAL WORK.

During the three years 1898 to 1900 a hundred and twenty fresh inscriptions have been added to the list of lithic records copied by the Archæological Survey. The majority belong to the North-Central Province; but the Central Province has supplied many, chiefly from Sígiriya.*

Material for the first volume of the "*Epigraphia Zeylanica*" has been despatched to England and is in the hands of Mr. D. M. de Z. Wickramasinghe for editing.

Inscriptions.

Examined between 1898 and 1900.

No.	Korálé.	Village.	Site.	Class.	Sovereign.	Year.	Remarks.
<i>North-Central Province.</i>							
1	Nuwaragam	Anurádhapura	Jétawanáráma	Steps	—	—	5th to 9th century
2	Do.	do.	do.	Slab	—	—	Early A.D.
3	Do.	do.	—	Pillar	Siri Sang Bo	9th	Séna I. (846-866 A.D.) or Séna II. (866-901 A.D.)
4-7	Do.	do.	Mirisáveṭiya	Pavement slabs	—	—	Early centuries A.D.
8	Do.	do.	Nuwara-veṭwa	Slab	Siri Sang Bo Abhá	12th	Mihindu IV. (975-991 A.D.)
9	Do.	do.	do.	do.	(?)	(?)	10th century
10-22	Do.	do.	Vessagiriya	Cave	—	—	Early
23	Do.	do.	do.	Rock	—	—	Early B.C.
24	Do.	do.	do.	do.	—	—	5th to 9th century
25	Do.	Baṇḍára Puliyankulama	—	Slab	Abhá Salamewan	5th	10th century
26	Do.	do.	—	do.	do.	(?)	do.
27	Do.	do.	—	do.	Abá Salamewan	12th	Dápula V. (940-952 A.D.)
28	Do.	Máha Ratmalé	—	Rock	Naka	—	Early
29	Do.	Moragahavela	—	Pillar	Siri Sang Bo	22nd	Séna II.
30	Do.	Puwarasaṅkulama	—	do.	—	—	11th or 12th century
31-58	Kanadará	Mihintálé	Mihintálé-kanda	Cave	—	—	Early B.C. and A.D.
59-62	Do.	do.	do.	Rock	—	—	Early A.D.
63-71	Do.	do.	Rájagirilena	Cave	—	—	Early B.C.
72	Do.	do.	Kaḷudiya Pokuna	Rock	—	—	10th century, fragment
73-75	Do.	do.	Anaikutti-kanda	Cave	—	—	—
76	Do.	Kirindégama	—	Pillar	—	—	10th century, fragment
77	Do.	Ilippakanniya	—	do.	—	—	do.
78	Do.	Elle-veṭwa	—	do.	Siri Sang Bo	15th	Séna II.
79	Do.	Ġalkandégama	—	Cave	—	—	Early
80	Kenda	Pudukkulama	—	Pillar	Siri Sang Bo	(?)	Séna II.
81	Do.	Sangili Kanadaráwa	—	do.	do.	5th	do.
82	Do.	Kidágalegama	—	do.	do.	24th	do.
83	Vilachchi	Timbiri-veṭwa	—	do.	Kasub Siri Sang Bo	1st	Kásyapa IV. (912-929 A.D.)
84	Do.	Dombavalagama	—	Slab	(?)	(?)	10th century
<i>Central Province.</i>							
85	Inámaḷawa	Sígiriya	Mápá-gala	Pillar	Siri Sang Bo	2nd	Séna II.
86	Do.	do.	do.	do.	(?)	5th	10th century
87-91	Do.	do.	Sígiri-nuwara	Cave	—	—	Early
92-93	Do.	do.	do.	do.	—	—	Early A.D.
94-97	Do.	do.	Sígiri-gala	Gallery	—	—	5th to 7th century A.D.
<i>Passim</i>	Do.	do.	do.	do.	—	—	8th to 11th century
98	Do.	do.	do.	do.	Siri Sang Bo Káliṅga Parákrama Báhu	2nd	Nissaṅka Malla (1198-1207 A.D.)
99	Do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	11th	—
100	Do.	do.	do.	do.	Maha Kalyánavati	4th	Kalyánavati (1202-1208 A.D.)
101	Do.	do.	do.	do.	Bhuwaneka Báhu	12th	Bhuwaneka Báhu V. (1371 A.D.)
102	Do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	13th	—
103	Do.	do.	do.	do.	Parákrama	4th	Parákrama Báhu VI. (1415-1467 A.D.)
104	Do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	6th	do.
105	Do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	14th	do.
106	Do.	do.	do.	do.	Parákrama Báhu	—	do.
					—	15th	do.

* The countless records (8th to 11th centuries) on the gallery wall excluded.

No.	Korálé	Village.	Site.	Class.	Sovereign.	Year.	Remarks.					
Central Province—contd.												
107	Inámaļuwa	Sígiriya	...	Sígiri-gala	...	Gallery	...	Parákrama Báhu	—	Parákrama Báhu VI. (1415-1467 A.D.)		
108	Do.	...	do.	...	do.	...	do.	—	16th	do.		
109	Do.	...	do.	...	do.	...	do.	—	20th	do.		
110	Do.	...	do.	...	do.	...	do.	(?)	...	12th	do.	
111	Do.	...	do.	...	do.	...	do.	(?)	...	16th	do.	
112-113	Do.	...	Pidurá-gala	...	Pidurá-gala	...	Cave	...	—	—	Early	
114	Do.	...	do.	...	do.	...	do.	...	—	—	5th to 9th century A.D.	
115-117	Do.	...	Inámaļuwa	...	Endéru-gala	...	do.	...	—	—	Early	
118	Do.	...	do.	...	do.	...	Rock	...	—	—	do.	
119	Wagapanaha Pallesiya pattuwa	Kumbukkandan-wala	...	Kaļu pokuṇa	...	Cave	...	Siri Sang Bo	...	8th	Séna I. or Séna II.	
120	Do.	...	do.	...	—	...	Slab	...	—	—	5th to 9th century A.D.	
121	Do.	...	do.	...	—	...	do.	...	(?)	...	(?)	10th century

6.—MISCELLANEOUS.

(i.) *Ola Manuscripts.*

The Oriental Library, Colombo Museum, was supplied with copies of thirteen *ola* manuscripts in 1900.

(ii.) *Anuradhapura Museum.*

A ward of the former Anurádhapura Hospital has this year been partially converted into a temporary local Museum,* in response to recommendation made since 1896.†

(iii.) *Preservation of Antiquities Ordinance.*

This greatly-needed Ordinance was passed this year, No. 15 of 1900.‡

7.—CENTRAL PROVINCE.

MATALE DISTRICT.

Sígiriya.

(i.) *Clearing the Ruins.*

The annual weeding of the ruins on the summit of Sígiri-gala and the terraces below it was carried out in 1900 by a gang of coolies detached from the Anurádhapura force.

This cleaning year by year is essentially necessary to preserve the excavated ruins in even fair condition, owing to the fragile nature of many of the old walls, &c., and the exceptionally exposed position of the Rock citadel.

(ii.) *Excavations.*

Later, the immense mass of *débris* of the ancient gallery, which once skirted the cliff's north-west face but now wholly fallen, was got rid of; as well as of the terraces at the southern end of the western slope of the "half-way" *maluwa* projecting from the Great Rock northwards.

By this removal of spoil was laid bare two sets of small rooms facing each other east and west and stretching 24 yards in length. These lie between the so-called "Prison Rock" on the north and the stone-banked foundations of the ruined gallery to the south. The steep walled ramp which bounds the western terraces of the *maluwa* slopes confines the rooms on that side, and to north-east and east rises rock upon which rests the *maluwa* itself.

The rooms were most regularly laid out—five on either hand from north to south, and one at both ends, each averaging 14 ft. 6 in. by 10 ft. 3 in. in size, with a verandah all round facing inwards towards an open "yard" 50 ft. long, but only 7 ft. in breadth, paved with limestone slabs. The descent from the *maluwa* to these rooms (not improbably used as monks' cells after the fall of Kásyapa I.) was by stairs from the upper terraces north-east.

Immediately east of the rooms at a higher level is a long narrow terrace (behind which rises rock) which may have been utilized for additional accommodation. The small brick-built cistern still higher eastwards seems to have drained beneath the floor of the rooms towards the south, where the lavatories were placed.

(iii.) *Restoration Work.*

(a) *Gallery.*

During the year steady progress was made in the building up from the concrete foundation bed, the floor and outer wall of the gallery at the north-west corner of the Rock. Here the brick-work had fallen away almost entirely.

Further, the first length of an iron bridge was fixed in position. This is intended to connect the gallery which runs along the west face of the Rock with the portion in ruins towards the north.

* Provincial Engineer, No. 250 of August 22, 1890. † Annual Report, 1896, p. 9. ‡ Annual Report, 1897, p. 13.

(b) "*Fresco Pockets.*"

The whole series of paintings in the "pocket" caves (A, B) of the western scarp of Sîgiri-gala had been copied in 1896 and 1897 by Mr. D. A. L. Perera, Head Draughtsman.*

Both last year (1899) and this (1900) jungle timber was cut, carried up to the "gallery," and hauled into the "pockets" above. This was tied into scaffolding and hurdle platforms (*mehi*) necessary to secure photographs of the figures, and to repair, where urgently called for, and legitimate, the damage caused by birds and insects.

Several successful sets of photographs have been taken on ordinary, and orthochromatic, plates; whilst the many lamentable "pittings" in the plaster and paintings were most judiciously blocked out.†

Nalanda.—The reservation of the unique ruin, locally styled "*Gedi-gé*," which stands in paddy fields about a mile from the Resthouse, was recommended in 1894.‡

Subsequently a road was cut to the site, and a survey of the private land immediately surrounding the structure ordered.

These lots have at length been surveyed, and are being acquired by the Crown.

H. C. P. BELL,
Archæological Commissioner.

* Annual Reports, 1896, pp. 10, 11; 1897, pp. 14, 15.

† This fully justifiable, but delicate, work Mr. Perera completed with that exquisite skill which his previous copying of the paintings assured. He employed lasting "spirit fresco" medium and pigments, similar to those used in England for mural paintings by Mr. Gambier Perry, Mr. Madox Brown, and Sir Frederick Leighton.

‡ Annual Report, 1894, p. 8.

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